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REPAIRS NECESSITATE REDUCED FLOWS THROUGH WEEKEND

YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE – D/R Hydro Company's repair project in the tunnel exit at the outflow below Youghiogheny Dam began on Monday, October 25 as expected. To allow the repairs to the steel plates to take place in a relatively dry environment, the dam gates were temporarily shut and a small dam was constructed within the tunnel to divert flow through the powerhouse. Once the dam in the tunnel was complete, the US Army Corps of Engineers opened the gates enough to discharge a flow of approximately 125 cubic feet per second (cfs), the amount that D/R Hydro's stationary turbines can accommodate without being damaged. This is approximately one-fourth of the usual amount of water released from the dam at this time of year.

The original schedule anticipated that the repair project would be complete on Friday, October 29. However, due to conditions discovered once the repairs began, it now appears that the repairs will continue through the weekend of October 30, with a return to a normal seasonal outflow on Monday, November 1. Visitors to the outflow area below Youghiogheny Dam can expect to see less water than usual in the Youghiogheny River for the duration of the repairs. There will also be a five to seven hour period at the end of the work during which the gates at the dam will be completely shut. This will allow for the removal of the small dam constructed within the outflow tunnel.

The repair project will in no way affect the flood reduction capabilities of Youghiogheny Dam. In the event of an unexpected storm requiring releases in excess of 125 cfs during the repairs, the contractor will remove his equipment and the Corps will revert to its normal release schedule. Continuously recording instruments will monitor water quality in the area throughout the repairs.

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